

## BOOK REVIEW

Habe, Tadashige. 1977. *Systematics of Mollusca in Japan. Bivalvia and Scaphopoda*. Tokyo, 372 pp., 72 pls. No price listed. In Japanese.

Dr. Tadashige Habe, long time curator at the National Science Museum in Tokyo and acknowledged authority on the taxonomy of the mollusca of Japan, presents here in bound form, an updating of his several papers on the genera of Japanese bivalves and scaphopods (*Genera of Japanese Shells. Pelecypoda*, nos. 1-4 [1951-1953], and, with S. Kosuge, *A List of the Indo-Pacific Molluscs, Concerning to the Japanese Molluscan Fauna. Class Scaphopoda*. Nat. Sci. Mus., Tokyo [1964]). The compilation is listed according to the outlines provided in the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*. Thus, for the Bivalvia, which constitutes the bulk of the text, 6 subclasses and 89 families within 42 superfamilies are delineated. Even taxa which are not part of the Japanese fauna are listed for convenience and designated by an asterisk.

Within each family, the general treatment includes the citation of each genus along with a notation of the type-species and currently accepted synonyms. After a short generic diagnosis, there follows a listing of Japanese species with a citation of the original author and date and the common Japanese name accompanied by the Japanese authority for such, mainly Hirase, Kuroda, and Habe, himself. Geographic localities are listed to indicate the range of each species. Depth records are provided as well as an indication of the preferred bottom type or substrate. The line-drawings in the plates illustrate several hundred of the most common Japanese species.

The Scaphopod portion of the volume occupies fewer than twenty pages.

Glossaries of the specialized descriptive terms utilized in the taxonomy of these organisms, as well as a short dictionary of nomenclatorial definitions, are provided. Indices to Latin and Japanese generic nomina complete the volume.

The work is, of course, indispensable for anyone working on the taxonomy and distribution of bivalves or scaphopods; it will certainly be useful for the student of sea shells of the Western Pacific, and it will have to be consulted by various other specialists since new taxa are introduced. Although comprehensive, the treatment is regional and parochial; critical revisions of most oriental taxa continue to go begging.

—K. J. Boss